

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Official Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. By this Amendment, applicant has canceled Claim 11 and has now amended independent Claim 10 and dependent Claims 12 and 16. Accordingly, it is now believed that amended independent Claims 10 and the remaining claims dependent thereon have been placed in condition for allowance.

Turning now to the rejection on the merits, it is noted that the Examiner has rejected Claims 10 as being allegedly anticipated under 35 USC 102 in view of Baldwin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,249,452. He has set forth in detail his reasons on page 2 of this Office Action. The Examiner has also indicated that Claims 1-9, 18 and 19 are allowed.

Further, the Examiner's comment pointing out that Claims 11-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is thankfully noted. In view this, applicant has now canceled Claim 11 and incorporated the subject matter thereof into amended independent Claim 10.

Therefore, it believed that amended Claim 10 has been placed in a condition for allowance.

Moreover, it is likewise submitted that Claims 12-17 being dependent upon amended independent Claim 10 should likewise be allowable for this reason alone. It should be noted that Claims 12 and 16 have been amended to be dependent upon amended Claim 10 in view of the cancellation of Claim 11 from which they depend.


In view of the foregoing discussion and amendments advanced to the claims, it is now believed that amended independent Claim 10 and the remaining claims dependent thereon have been placed in condition for allowance. Therefore, a formal Notice of Allowability is believed to be in order and the same is earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application may be expedited by direct

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Respectfully submitted,

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